

Promoting teamwork throughout the department in partnership with state and local health, social service, and criminal justice agencies is an essential focus of the **Community Services Department**. The Department ensures high quality customer service through community based programs that offer both information and direct client assistance.

The Seminole County **Probation Division** consists of adult misdemeanor probation, pretrial diversion, pretrial release (mental health), community service and conditional release. We supervise over 5,000 offenders with the focus on affecting positive behavior for the purpose of reducing crime and recidivism. In FY 2003/2004 our objective generated \$1,012,186 in revenues to the General Fund and approximately 60,000 hours of community service work for our community. We formed a partnership with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office to operate a program whereby the Courts allow eligible offenders to be tracked electronically by means of a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS). We will continue our protective role through professional monitoring of offenders in the community while they attempt to reintegrate back into productive law-abiding members of society or face the more serious consequence of incarceration.

The **Division of Community Assistance** provides a "life line" during a time of crisis to approximately 15,000 residents. It is our hope and goal that our services will promote a sense of hope by restoring individual self-sufficiency, and strengthening the overall quality of life for the entire community. These positive outcomes are the result of coordinating access to resources through direct temporary financial assistance provided by our staff, or by referral to other community agencies through established partnerships. To further enhance partnerships and service delivery, the Department provided leadership in the finalization of a \$1.65 million contract with the Florida Department of Children and Families. Under this contract, Federal funds are leveraged with existing county resources in the development of a lead agency to coordinate the effective delivery of services to children in the dependency system.

The **Veteran Services Office** strives to secure the maximum VA benefits for all eligible Veterans and their families. Through staff education and training, Veterans Services continues to increase outreach and publicize efforts to support public awareness of broadening VA benefits. Veterans Services also provides support to the Sanford VA Community Based Out-Patient Clinic and the Casselberry Veteran Services Office.

Prosecution Alternatives for Youth (PAY) provides pretrial services by involving the community in juvenile justice. Over 200 adult and youth volunteers assist staff in promoting positive behavior, and holding young offenders accountable for their actions. PAY is taking a proactive approach to case supervision by conducting frequent home and field visits. This initiative was augmented in FY 2003 by the use of wireless laptop computers linked to a tracking system shared by all county law enforcement agencies, an effort that will provide "real time" offender information to all supervising/monitoring entities. PAY provided diversion services to more than 1,200 juveniles in FY 2003/04, while maintaining a less than 8% recidivism rate and generating \$38,611 in revenue. P.A.Y. is also providing case management services for the Juvenile Drug Court program which began in 2002.

The **Seminole County Health Department** in collaboration with the public and private sector works to maximize resources to promote and protect the health and safety of our residents. The health partnerships that are forged with local community assets will increase access to care and education while improving measured outcomes. Specifically in the area of women and child health, environmental services, HIV/AIDS, dental, KidCare, and cancer we have initiated some exciting new levels of support in the community. Defining a "Healthy Seminole" will be the focal point of a Health Summit this year in partnership with Seminole Envision. Dialogue has improved locally due to a central focus in the community. Homeland security, bioterrorism and disaster preparedness have strengthened the communication and collaboration across agency and private sector lines and continues to be a uniting force within the county, state and nation.

